

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition for increasing a body height of an individual, comprising a guanyl cyclase B (GC-B) activator as an active ingredient, the composition being to be administered to an individual free from FGFR3 abnormality.
2. The composition of claim 1, for use in a patient with short stature.
3. The composition of claim 1, for use in an individual other than patients with short stature.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the increase in body height is extension of cartilage bones.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the increase in body height is extension of femora, tibiae, radiuses, and/or ulnae.
6. The composition of claim 1, wherein the activator is a peptide.
7. The composition of claim 6, wherein the peptide is type C natriuretic peptide (CNP) or a derivative thereof.
8. The composition of claim 7, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53 from mammals including human, or birds.
9. The composition of claim 7, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or CNP-53 of SEQ ID NO: 2.
10. The composition of claim 7, wherein the derivative has a deletion, substitution or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2, while possessing a CNP activity.
11. A method for increasing a body height of an individual, comprising activating GC-B to increase the body height in an individual free from FGFR3 abnormality.
12. The method of claim 11, wherein the increase in body height is extension of cartilage bones.
13. The method of claim 11, wherein the increase in body height is extension of femora, tibiae, radiuses, and/or ulnae.
14. The method of claim 11, wherein the GC-B is activated by CNP or a

derivative thereof.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 or CNP-53 from mammals, including human, or birds.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the CNP is CNP-22 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or CNP-53 of SEQ ID NO: 2.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the derivative has a deletion, substitution or addition of one or several amino acids in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2, while possessing a CNP activity.

18. A method for screening an agent for increasing the body height of an individual, comprising screening candidate agents for an agent for increasing the body height using the activity of GC-B as an indication.

19. The method of claim 18, which comprises preparing cultured cells that express GC-B or cells from articular chondrocytes, culturing the cells in the presence of a candidate agent, and screening candidate agents for an agent for increasing the body height of an individual using the activity of GC-B in the cells as an indication.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the activity of GC-B is determined as an amount of produced intracellular cGMP.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein it comprises preparing a cultured cell line that has been forced to express GC-B; culturing the cell line in the presence or absence of a test substance, determining an amount of intracellular cGMP produced in the cell line, and screening candidate agents for an agent for increasing body heights using the difference, as an indication, in amounts of intracellular cGMP produced in the presence and absence of the test substance.

22. A method for extending a cartilage bone free from FGFR3 abnormality in an individual, comprising activating GC-B in the individual.